

July 2006

DOC NEWSLINE

P&P Employee Thankful, Upbeat Despite the Chaos of Katrina

****Editor's Note:** After getting an initial email from former New Orleans East P&P employee Carol McDonald with a picture and a brief update on her situation, DOC Newsline asked Carol to share her story about surviving Katrina.

Carol McDonald's two daughters begged her to go with them as the pair packed up and headed to Texas to avoid Hurricane Katrina. But Carol, who with her sister was preparing for her church's anniversary that Sunday, August 28, thought she'd be fine riding out the storm with her younger sister, Jackie, who lived in a multi-story dwelling. With a mandatory evacuation declared, the church's anniversary celebration was cancelled and, by Sunday evening, Carol found herself at Jackie's home along with about 15 other relatives.

"At about ten or eleven o'clock that night, the weather began to deteriorate. The wind was getting strong and loud. It felt like it was going to blow the house down. But we didn't get much rain at all," recalls Carol.

Despite the lack of rain, Carol and her brother-in-law who were the only ones awake at the time, noticed water filling up the streets. It kept getting higher and higher, and before long, water covered the tops of cars on the street. The wind blew off a downstairs door and the water came up the stairs to where the family was sheltering on the second floor.

Story continued on page 7 ...

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Prepare NOW for an Evacuation

Carol's story above is proof that if you haven't already started planning for evacuation, you need to start now. Many of us within the Department will be needed at work during the storm, but hopefully family members can find their way to safer destinations. Hurricane Katrina showed us that "riding out the storm" is never a good idea if you have other options. Evacuation traffic might be a headache, but it's certainly better than the alternative Katrina and Rita left us.

Here are some tips provided by the Department of Homeland Security, which we've probably all heard before but perhaps don't practice.

- **Keep a full tank of gas in your vehicle(s).**
- **Know your evacuation route.** Visit the La. Department of Transportation and Development website for the evacuation routes for SW and SE Louisiana at www.dotd.louisiana.gov/maps/.
- **Let your local emergency management officials know in advance if you will need assistance to evacuate.**
- **Keep tuned to weather news on television or radio.**

- **Have cash on hand.**
- **Have your disaster preparation kit ready.** (Visit www.ready.gov for help creating one.)



Food and Water During an Emergency:

Water

- One gallon of water per person per day, for drinking and sanitation.
- Children, nursing mothers, and sick people may need more water.
- If you live in a warm weather climate more water may be necessary.
- Store water tightly in clean plastic containers such as soft drink bottles.
- Keep *at least* a three-day supply of water per person.



Food

- Store *at least* a three-day

supply of non-perishable food.

- Select foods that require no refrigeration, preparation or cooking and little or no water.
- Pack a manual can opener and eating utensils.
- Choose foods your family will eat.
 - Ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits and vegetables
 - Protein or fruit bars
 - Dry cereal or granola
 - Peanut butter
 - Dried fruit
 - Nuts
 - Crackers
 - Canned juices
 - Non-perishable pasteurized milk
 - High energy foods
 - Vitamins
 - Food for infants
 - Comfort/stress foods

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SPD's Shaver Sniffs Out Another Fugitive

Shreveport District Probation and Parole Officer Butch Shaver did in one day what Illinois officials couldn't do in two years. That's not a knock to our out-of-state law enforcement colleagues, just a big compliment to Shaver's ability to track some of the most dangerous criminals in the country.

On June 13, 2006, Deputy United States Marshal Chris Turner turned to Shaver for help in locating suspect Roosevelt Turner, who had a warrant out for his arrest. Described as a drug trafficker with a history of weapons charges and crimes of violence, Roosevelt Turner had been successfully hiding from authorities for two years.

Shaver developed information during the course of the day indicating that Turner was living in a Bossier City apartment complex. When contacted, the manager confirmed Turner's residence but said he was living there under the alias of "Dewayne Lovett" and that the apartment was actually rented by someone else.

After relaying the message, Shaver waited for marshals to arrive from Illinois and the arrest warrant was executed. Roosevelt Turner was taken into custody around 10:00 p.m., only hours after Shaver got the initial call.

- Information submitted by Gary Wyche, Probation and Parole Regional Director

LSP Chase Team Captures Murder Suspect in Mississippi

Real hounds and their handlers from the Louisiana State Penitentiary Chase Team got a chance to prove their metal recently when Woodville, Mississippi police asked for assistance in apprehending a murder suspect.

A tip phoned into the Wilkinson County (Miss.) Sheriff's Office revealed that 24-year-old George Haynes was hiding out in the area, perhaps with the help of some relatives. Haynes, an evacuee from New Orleans, stands accused of killing a 2 year-old child during a drive-by shooting in Kansas City, Missouri in early June. Two other children were wounded in the crime.

Woodville police officer Eugene Case credited LSP's Chase Team for picking up Haynes' scent almost immediately after he fled on foot into a wooded area behind a relative's home.

"Within 15 minutes, the individual we were looking for was in custody," said officer Case.

Congratulations to LSP Deputy Warden Darryl Vannoy, AW Joe Lamartiniere, Colonel Joe Norwood, Lt. Robert Tyer and Lt. Trent Barton on the apprehension. Bloodhounds Grubby and Duke deserve some credit, too.
- Information submitted by AW Cathy Fontenot, LSP

EHCC's Chase Team Scores Captures

On June 23, 2006 at approximately 1:30 p.m. Captain LeBlanc, Lt. Avants and Assistant Warden Hooper from Elayn Hunt Correctional Center responded to a call from the West Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office to assist on a man hunt for one unknown male and one female who fled on foot into a wooded area behind the Mississippi River levee, after a vehicle chase from Louisiana State Police.

The EHCC Chase Team, one State Trooper, and one West Baton Rouge Sheriff's Deputy began searching the area with the assistance of K-9 Chance. Chance picked up the scent and the subjects were tracked for approximately 2 miles before being captured hiding under heavy brush. The suspects were armed with a handgun at the time of the apprehension and booked without further incident by State Police for possession of a stolen vehicle, resisting arrest by flight and other charges.

K-9 Chance was also called out along with Asst. Warden Hooper, Capt. LeBlanc and Maj. Carpenter to assist the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office on June 16, 2006.

Chance and his handlers searched the area where the suspect, wanted for murder and attempted murder of St. John Parish Sheriff's Deputies, was believed to be hiding. Chance approached a house where it was learned that the subject was barricaded inside with a hostage.

Chance indicated through a search of outer areas that the suspect had not fled the perimeter. Negotiations were successful and the suspect was apprehended.

- Information submitted by Capt. Jeff LeBlanc, EHCC

Justice Hall of Fame Set to Induct New Members

The Second Annual **LOUISIANA JUSTICE HALL OF FAME** Reception and Induction Banquet ceremonies, sponsored by the Louisiana State Penitentiary Museum Foundation, is set for **Saturday, July 29, 2006**. The Hall of Fame honors men and women of Louisiana who have served in many areas of Louisiana's justice system.

Activities begin at the LSP Museum at Angola at 2:00 pm, with a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house. Guests will have an opportunity to meet with the honorees and their families and other officials.

The induction activities start at 5:00 pm at the Hemingbough Convention Center in St. Francisville, with a wine and cheese reception featuring live entertainment, followed by the Induction Banquet and program at 6:00 pm.

Tickets for the Hemingbough event are **only** \$35.00 per person. Seating is limited so please contact the Angola Museum at 225.655.2592 for reservations and information.

INDUCTEES TO THE 2006 LOUISIANA JUSTICE HALL OF FAME:

Chief Judge Helen B. Berrigan
Bernard Edwards Boudreaux, Jr.
Sheriff William Earl Hilton (Rapides Parish)
Dr. Theodore J. Jemison
Justice Catherine D. "Kitty" Kimball
United States Senator Mary Landrieu
Sheriff Harry Lee (Jefferson Parish)
Judge Kaliste Saloom, Jr.
Judge E. Gordon West (posthumously)

- Information submitted by Mike Wynne and Cathy Fontenot

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NAD's Spillman Gets Promotion; Moves to Leesville



Judy Wester, District Manager of the Natchitoches Adult P&P Office, presents Officer Dwain Spillman with an engraved name plaque with his new title. He has accepted a promotion to Supervisor with the Leesville District Adult P&P Office. Wester and her staff honored Spillman with a reception. Spillman has been with the Natchitoches office for 15 years. Congratulations!

- Information submitted by Judy Wester

New Direction for Prison Enterprises



Upon the retirement of Jim Leslie, Secretary Richard Stalder has appointed Warden Jim Rogers to take over the helm of that division of the Louisiana Department of Corrections.

Director Rogers is celebrating 30 years with the Department of Corrections, having begun his career in 1976 as an accountant at Dixon Correctional Institute. He moved from there to work at AgriBusiness (now Prison Enterprises), and has been a warden for the past nine years, first at C. Paul Phelps Correctional Center and then at Washington Correctional Institute.

Director Rogers has served the Department well and will continue to do so in this new endeavor that will provide him with the opportunity to expand and enhance his already significant contributions to the Department. He is ready to face the challenges created by statewide budget cuts and the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Prison Enterprises will certainly benefit from the experience and expertise in the fields of finance and management that Warden Rogers brings with him to this position.

- Information submitted by Ginger Williamson, PE

State Tax Deadline Extended Again for Some

Louisiana has extended the deadline for individuals to file their 2004 and 2005 state income tax returns. The state Department of Revenue has given taxpayers in areas hardest hit by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita until October 16 to make payments. The area includes a large portion of south Louisiana.

For Louisiana returns, taxpayers should mark "Hurricane Katrina" in black ink on the top of their returns to ensure they are identified for hurricane relief. The latest extension applies only to individual returns and not to other individual deadlines, such as estimated tax payments.

Need more information? Call the Louisiana Department of Revenue at (225) 219-2448 or visit www.rev.state.la.us/sections/publications/viewrelease.asp?id=175 to read the press release.

Source: Louisiana Department of Revenue

HR News

COLA Granted for Eligible Retirees

Beginning July 1, 2006, eligible retirees of the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System will begin receiving their first Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) increase in four years.

The Louisiana Legislature approved the Senate Concurrent Resolution 94, which authorizes LASERS to grant a 2.4% COLA to more than 32,000 system retirees. **If you are age 55 and have been receiving a retirement check for one year as of July 1, 2006, you WILL receive the COLA. If you do not meet the criteria above as of July 1, 2006, you WILL NOT receive the COLA.**

The COLA is funded through excess investment earnings that accumulate in the legislatively established Experience Account. Senator Butch Gautreaux and Representative Pete Schneider, Chairmen of the Retirement Committees in the Senate and House of Representatives, introduced COLA resolutions on behalf of retirees.

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Focus on Education

Former PCC Inmate is Guest Speaker at Graduation



PCC's MSgt. Paul Royer and John Beeson, Guest Speaker

A former inmate at C. Paul Phelps Correctional Center returned to prison – not as a repeat offender, but as a role model for other inmates and the keynote speaker for the facility's bi-annual graduation ceremony on Friday, May 19, 2006. The event honors the achievement of students in the education and vocational departments and is an anticipated event for both students and staff.

Mr. John Beeson is a former inmate who has completed his Bachelor's Degree since leaving PCC and is now enrolled in graduate studies. Beeson shared his success story with the audience. When he arrived at PCC as an inmate, he was an 8th grade drop out. While at PCC he received his GED and was involved with the vocational training. He credited his current educational success with the start he made while incarcerated at PCC, and encouraged those coming behind him to do the same.

Mr. Phil Doucet, a Phelps instructor, served as master of ceremonies. Warden Robert Henderson spoke to the group and pledged that the administration would continue to emphasize education and training. He congratulated the progress of the inmates and encouraged them to continue their education. Other members of the administration attending the event

were Assistant Wardens JoAnn Peshoff, Roy Williams, and Jolene Constance. They were accompanied by representatives from most disciplines at PCC.

Ms. Dianna Fruge', program manager, introduced the instructors who then presented the awards. Instructors, in addition to Mr. Doucet, included Dorothy Kazee, Marjorie Myers, Bert Cart, Jimmy Hall, John Williams, Richard Parker, and A. J. Simmons. Msgt. Paul Royer presented the Literacy awards. Those honored for the first time include students in the Youthful Offender Grant Program. Approximately one hundred and thirty five certificates were awarded. Special recognition was given to the GED graduates.

The PCC Harmonizers entertained the students and guests with music that was enjoyed by all. Congratulations to the PCC staff and to the graduates.

- Information submitted by Dianna Fruge', PCC

DCC Academics Continues to Break Records



The J. Levy Dabadie Correctional Center Education Department once again celebrates another record-breaking year thanks to Mr. Tony Gauthier, instructor. Despite a slow start due to extenuating circumstances caused by Hurricane Katrina, a record 57 students were able to achieve their GEDs during 2005/2006. This rockets them past the previous record of 54 set last year. The achievement marks the third consecutive year the program has set a new record for GED graduates.

Mr. Gauthier is confident that the number 57 is short-term and, with continued hard work and a little luck with the weather, we will once again be setting records at JLDCC.

- Information submitted by Casey Morace, JLDCC

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EHCC Holds Graduation for Hard Working Students



Graduation exercises were held June 1, 2006 for 135 Graduates of the total 343 students completing Elayn Hunt Correctional Center and Louisiana Technical College academic and vocational programs (above, left). From May 2005 through May 2006, 99 students earned a GED. Forty-eight of those completing the GED also completed a vocational training program. Most students also earned industry-recognized credentials and certifications including NCCER, ETA Fiber Optic Installer Certification, EPA Certification, OSHA General Industry Certification, WorkKeys, and Serv-Safe Certification.

Dr. David Deggs, Section Leader of the Adult and Family Literacy Services of the La. Department of Education, delivered the Keynote address to graduates, guests, and staff. His message of inspiration and motivation to view and pursue "lifelong"

learning as an ongoing process was meaningful to everyone in the audience.

Graduation 2006 was dedicated to the victims of Hurricanes Katrina & Rita and to those working to rebuild the State of Louisiana.

In June, EHCC Education Staff also conducted quarterly testing to measure the progress of approximately 100 academic students (above, right). Testing is serious business and students know it.

Correctional and educational staff work collaboratively to provide a test site that accommodates all students simultaneously. Necessary adjustments are made so that each student is provided with the best opportunity for success.

- Information submitted by EHCC Education Department

Carpentry Project



DWCC has a new greenhouse, which was constructed by DWCC's Youth Offender Grant carpentry students as their demonstration project.

NAD's Wester Busted for a Good Cause



Judy Wester, Natchitoches District Probation and Parole District Manager, was arrested in the local Muscular Dystrophy "Lock Up" Drive. She was found guilty of being "too good" to Jerry's Kids.

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DCI's Resource Fair Helps Inmates Reenter La. Communities



An exhibitor attending DCI's Resource Fair speaks with inmates.

Dixon Correctional Institute recently hosted its annual Community Reentry Resource Fair for over 300 inmates scheduled to release within the next twelve months. Forty-two individuals representing state, faith-based and community service organizations interviewed both medium and minimum custody inmates, some of whom will release to the greater New Orleans area. Inmates were provided information regarding housing, clothing, state identification cards, employment and education.

Feedback from the inmate population and exhibitors was extremely positive. One exhibitor said, "Each time this affair is presented here it gets better and better. The inmates have become more serious time after time."

Exhibitors in this year's event included Goodwill Industries, Odyssey House, Volunteers of America, Department of Transportation and Development, Louisiana Rehabilitation Services, Department of Labor (DOL), and Consumer Credit Counseling. DOL representatives seized the opportunity to inform the inmates about the collaboration with Corrections to help link them (through their Probation and Parole Officer) to local One Stop Centers for employment referrals and job training services. Future plans for this collaboration will involve completion of the Louisiana Virtual One-Stop (LAVOS) application during pre-release and referring full-term offenders for

services. The application is designed to capture the applicant's education and work experience.

In an effort to reduce recidivism and in support of Secretary Richard L. Stalder's commitment to maximize public safety, the Department continues to embrace reentry as a vehicle to reduce recidivism by enabling the successful return of offenders to local communities. Resource fairs help link offenders with viable community resources and employment opportunities prior to release.

"We must continue to enhance our reentry initiative to increase the number of offenders who will remain in the community lawfully, thus resulting in reduced cost, fewer crime victims, improved public safety, and an enhanced quality of life across the state," Warden James LeBlanc stated. "For so long wardens were only concerned with the inmate while he was incarcerated. It's time to extend our concerns 'outside the fences' and help them return to the communities as law-abiding taxpayers rather than tax burdens."

"Corrections cannot do this alone. Louisiana can be safer if partnerships are formed between key players in the community, the offenders and corrections employees. To accomplish this, it is imperative that Corrections encourage and include services of citizen volunteers in the educational, social, faith based, and recreational programming of inmate activities," LeBlanc added.

Special thanks goes to John Yarbrow and the DCI Culinary students for preparing a wonderful lunch for the exhibitors. Next year's Community Resource Fair is scheduled for April 12.

- Information submitted by Deborah Shirley, DCI

Employers Looking for Motivated Inmates at Hunt

Elayn Hunt Correctional Center hosted a Job-Resource Fair in late April for all of the inmates releasing within 6 months of the date. It was well attended both by the Resource providers and the Employers – 100% of those making a commitment to come arrived at 8:30 AM and remained until 3:30 PM.

Approximately 250 inmates visited with employers and resource personnel. It was readily apparent that there are jobs, jobs, jobs available! Employers are eager to sign up workers who are willing to train for a variety of positions and resource providers are willing to assist them with support services.

- Information submitted by EHCC Education staff



Hunt inmates get information from an exhibitor about possible jobs upon release.

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Carol fits right in with the revelers in the WBRD office when they celebrate holidays at Port City Enterprises.

... Continued from page 1

Carol woke up sleeping relatives and everybody moved up to the third floor of the house. They took the food they had cooked from the canceled church anniversary party with them.

"I called my daughters and my mother and told them that I didn't think we were going to make it out safely," explained Carol.

The water stopped rising when it got to the second floor and daylight finally came after what seemed like hours of strong winds and waves pounding the house. Carol says it looked like all the houses were in the middle of Lake Ponchartrain. "We couldn't believe what was happening."

Listening to the radio, Carol heard the calls for help from people stranded on rooftops. Ever positive, she was thankful that her family at least had food and shelter, although the coming days would test her resolve.

"The third day after the storm, we kept hearing on the radio that help was on the way. We shared the food and water we had with our neighbors. Everybody was just trying to sur-

vive. The helicopters would fly by and we were waving and yelling for help, but no one came. At night, we had flashlights trying to signal them," said Carol.

On the fourth day, Carol and her family were still waiting for help. They were running out of food and water. The floodwaters smelled terrible. Two of her nephews decided to swim to their father's house to get a boat. Carol says that after what seemed like an eternity, her nephews came back – with the boat! The family evacuated to a nearby school, St. Mary's of the Angels, where they would be safe until help arrived. But help was still a day and a half away. Finally, the Coast Guard airlifted them to safety.

"We got separated. Me, my niece and my grandchildren were evacuated to San Antonio. We had only the clothes on our backs. We were dirty, tired and hungry." Carol's mother, two sisters and another nephew were taken to Dallas and her brother, sister-in-law and son went to Little Rock.

As if Hurricane Katrina wasn't harrowing enough, Carol got a knock on her Texas hotel door at six o'clock one September morning. The manager was closing the hotel because Hurricane Rita was threatening. Once again, Carol and her family were running from another storm. It took 26 hours to get from Houston to Baton Rouge.

Carol had to see some horrible things during both evacuations – we all did in the aftermath of Katrina and Rita. But she finds herself in a much happier place now, living in Baton Rouge with her husband and grandchildren and she's working in the West Baton Rouge District Office, where she's been welcomed with open arms.

"People often ask me, 'How can you have such a good attitude after what happened to you?' I tell them that one morning we woke up and 80% of our city was under water. Many people lost their lives. I am grateful that me and my family made it through this tragedy. You may not be able to replace everything you lost, but God spared our lives," said Carol.



Coast Guard helicopters come to the rescue of Carol McDonald's family and others atop the roof of St. Mary of the Angels school in the days after Katrina. Carol and her family were trapped in the floodwaters for 5 days.

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ALC's Relay for Life Team Wins Big and Gives Big!



Our team shown here (after the rain): (kneeling) Jolie Fontenot (daughter of Grady Fontenot), Dianna Kelly, Lisa Prudhomme, Samantha Jefferson, team captain Kim Moore and Nicole Klein. Those standing are Dana Barton, Kayla Chapman, Grady Fontenot, Aaron Courville, Chris Lavoie, Jenny Fontenot and Pam Doyle.

Allen Correctional Center (ALC) entered a team in the local Relay for Life on May 6, 2006, with all proceeds going to help find a cure for cancer. Even though the event was rained out, Allen exceeded its goal. There were food booths, face painting, games and a raffle for a beautiful swing. The team raised a lot of money and had a great time.

At the luminary ceremony held at the Veranda at the Coushatta Pines Golf Course, winners of various contests were announced. **ALC won Best Theme, Best Banner and tied for Most Spirit award. The team also received a Bronze award for raising over \$2500.00. Great job Castaways, and we look forward to next year.**

- Information submitted by Syble Rider, ALC

Honorable Mentions

- Alexandria District Probation and Parole Officers Bryan Book, Murphy Rachal and Brian Andrews attended and received certification for a "Violent Crimes and Narcotics Training" seminar, presented by the Louisiana Sheriff's Association.
- Dixon Correctional Institute held its annual employee recognition ceremony at the William "Bill" Carville Training Center in May. Service pins were given to employees who have completed 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years of service with the Department.
- Thomas Miller, son of Colonel Tommy Miller of Forcht Wade Correctional Center, graduated from boot camp at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas on June 16, 2006. Airman Miller is currently attending Tech school at Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas. Congratulations to Airman Miller and we thank him for his service to our country.
- Ville Platte District Probation and Parole Supervisor Kenneth Chelette participated in the "Allen Works" program at Allen Correctional Center in May. Chelette met with numerous inmates and gave them information regarding release, job opportunities and other important tidbits.
- Ville Plate District Probation and Parole Officer Lula Richardson was tapped in May as the city of Ville Platte's "Woman of the Year." Congratulations to Lula.

Employee Awards

SHRC

Correctional Officer of Month (May, 2006):
Sgt. Lillie Lewis

Correctional Officer of Month (June, 2006):
Sgt. Curley Brass

FWCC

Correctional Officer of Month (April, 2006):
Sgt. Jennifer Collins

Correctional Officer of Month (May, 2006):
Sgt. George Pulzone

DWCC

Correctional Officer of Month (April, 2006):
Dan Rhinehart

Correctional Officer of Month (May, 2006):
Sgt. Patricia Ray

Supervisor of the 2nd Quarter, 2006:
Major Ron Rawson

Support Employee of the 2nd Quarter,

2006:

Jesse Jimmerson

WCI

Correctional Officer of Month (April, 2006):
Sgt. Latiche LeRay
Correctional Officer of Month (May, 2006):
Sgt. Master Richard Magee

LSP

Correctional Officer of Month (May, 2006):
Sgt. Master Cherie McDonald

DCI

Correctional Officer of Month (May, 2006):
Sgt. Raymond Green

Service Award Recipients for 2005:
35 years:
Warden Steve Rader

30 years:
Lelia Bergeron
Leo Delatte
Tyrone White

25 years
Judith Cheatham
Karen Kelly
Mary Martinez
Wilford "Buddy" Stutzman

Headquarters

Supervisor of the 1st Quarter, 2006:
Patsy Austin

Support Employee of the 1st Quarter, 2006:
Madeline Terrell

EHCC

Correctional Officer of the Month (July, 2006):
Anna Perry

Supervisor of the Month (July, 2006):
Marvin Morris

Support Employee of the Month (July, 2006):
Eddie Jeansonne